

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 205970
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:JTWINAM:SEB :TEXT REC,D FROM WHITE HOUS
APPROVED BY NEA:NAVELIOTES
S/S-O:TMARTIN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 205970

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PPDC, TC, US

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO BAHRAIN AMIR

1. PLEASE PASS THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER TO SHAIKH ISA, AMIR OF BAHRAIN ASAP. THERE WILL BE NO RPT NO SIGNED ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW. GUIDANCE AND TALKING POINTS TO BE USED, IF NECESSARY, WILL BE PROVIDED SEPTEL.
2. BEGIN TEXT: YOUR HIGHNESS: I AM DEEPLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE THAT YOU AND YOUR GOVERNMENT ATTACH TO ACHIEVING A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I THEREFORE WISH TO SHARE WITH YOU SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FORTHCOMING MIDDLE EAST MEETING AT CAMP DAVID.

WE ARE GRATIFIED THAT PRIME MINISTER BEGIN AND PRESIDENT SADAT HAVE BOTH RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO THE INVITATION TO MEET WITH ME NEXT MONTH IN A MAJOR NEW EFFORT TO ESTABLISH A FRAMEWORK FOR A MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT. WE HAVE PURPOSELY NOT SET A FIXED DURATION FOR THE TALKS,
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SCHEDULED TO BEGIN ON SEPTEMBER 6, SO AS TO BE ABLE TO ALLOW AS MUCH TIME AS IS NEEDED FOR OUR EFFORTS TO SUCCEED. THIS IS AN ENCOURAGING INDICATION OF THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH ALL PARTIES ARE APPROACHING THIS MEETING.

I EXTENDED THIS INVITATION BECAUSE I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED A CRUCIAL POINT IN THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IN THE

MIDDLE EAST. NINE MONTHS HAVE PASSED SINCE PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN OPENED SIGNIFICANT NEW POSSIBILITIES FOR NEGOTIATING WITH THE HISTORIC MEETINGS IN JERUSALEM AND IN ISMAILIA. THE SIDES HAVE MADE PROGRESS TOWARD RESOLVING SOME OF THE ISSUES THAT DIVIDE THEM AT THIS TIME, BUT RECENTLY, AS YOU ARE AWARE, AN IMPASSE WAS THREATENED. I AM CONVINCED THAT WE CANNOT AFFORD AN IMPASSE, SINCE THE POSITIONS WOULD THEN HARDEN AND THE ATMOSPHERE DETERIORATE TO THE POINT WHERE THE PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR PEACE COULD WELL BECOME ANOTHER OF THE LOST OPPORTUNITIES THAT HAVE MARKED THE HISTORY OF THIS TRAGIC CONFLICT.

THE OBJECTIVE AT THE CAMP DAVID MEETING WILL REMAIN AS IT HAS BEEN DEFINED BY THE TWO SIDES THEMSELVES IN NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR: TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD AN AGREEMENT ON A FRAMEWORK, BASED ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 242, THAT WOULD ALLOW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD AGREEMENT ON SPECIFIC ISSUES, WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE AGREED GOAL OF A STABLE, JUST AND COMPREHENSIVE PEACE. SUCH AN AGREED FRAMEWORK MIGHT HELP TO BRING OTHER PARTIES TO THE CONFLICT INTO THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS.

OUR EXPERIENCE IN ATTEMPTING TO FACILITATE AND PROMOTE NEGOTIATIONS THIS PAST YEAR HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CARRY NEGOTIATIONS BEYOND A CERTAIN POINT
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ON THE CRUCIAL ISSUES UNLESS THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THEMSELVES CAN BE ENGAGED IN A DIRECT EXCHNAGE. THIS WAS ONE OF THE CONSIDERATIONS THAT LED ME TO THE DECISION TO EXTEND INVITATIONS TO THE TWO LEADERS TO MEET WITH ME AT CAMP DAVID. OUR OBJECTIVE WILL BE TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENTS AT THE POLITICAL LEVEL WHICH CAN PROVIDE GUIDANCE FOR THE NEGOTIATORS ON THE KEY ISSUES. I PLAN TO DO EVERYTHING WITHIN MY POWER TO HELP PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRIME MINISTER BEGIN ACHIEVE THE PROGRESS FOR WHICH WE ARE ALL SEARCHING.

AS WE MOVE INTO THIS CRUCIAL NEW PHASE OF MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS I WANTED TO SHARE WITH YOU MY REASONS FOR TAKING THIS STEP AND THOUGHTS ABOUT WHAT WE HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH. I KNOW YOU WILL AGREE WITH MY SENSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THESE TALKS, WHICH HOLD THE PROSPECT OF A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, DESPITE THE REAL DIFFICULTIES. I HOPE THAT I CAN COUNT ON YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING AND FULL SUPPORT IN THE TASK ON WHICH WE ARE EMBARKING. WITH MY BEST WISHES, SINCERELY, JIMMY CARTER. END TEXT. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE205970
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JTWINAM:SEB :TEXT REC,D FROM WHITE HOUS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780332-1141
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780858/aaaabwno.tel
Line Count: 113
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 10f58662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1721591
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENTIAL LETTER TO BAHRAIN AMIR
TAGS: PPDC, TC, US, EG, IS, (CARTER, JIMMY), (AL KHALIFA, ISA IBN SALMAN)
To: MANAMA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/10f58662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014